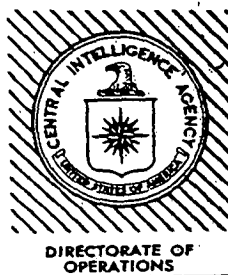


Intelligence Information Report



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C O N F I D E N T I A L

REPORT NO. FIRDB-312/02104-77

DATE DISTR. 13 June 1977

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
SOURCES METHOD EXEMPTION 3B2B
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2006

COUNTRY Poland

DOI February 1977

SUBJECT Activities of Intellectual Dissidents in Poland

ACQ

FIELD NO.

SOURCE A Western publisher who has frequent contact with Eastern Europeans traveling in the West.

1. Source spoke in February 1977 in Paris to Adam Michnik, a young Polish dissident activist and historian, who was traveling in the West for meetings with persons such as Professor Leszek Kolakowski, Heinrich Böll, Guenther Grass, personalities of the center left, trade unionists and academicians. In spite of increased repression and harassment of Polish dissidents, Michnik intended to return to Warsaw at the end of March, believing that international publicity would protect him from immediate danger of arrest. (Headquarters Comment: Michnik was arrested 14 May while on his way to Krakow to attend a requiem mass for Stanislaw Pyjas, the dissident student that Polish dissidents claim was murdered by the Secret Police.) Michnik stated that the Polish opposition movement will continue to campaign for human rights and civil liberties, using the Helsinki Agreement as a vehicle of convenience. Polish dissidents attach particular importance to coordination and cooperation with Soviet and East European dissidents and human rights movements, as well as to the support that might be obtained from West European communist and

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PAGE 2 OF 2 PAGES

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left-wing parties. In spite of a certain degree of pessimism among older members of the Polish opposition groups, the aim is to increase pressure from various sectors of society, to force the authorities to enter into a dialogue with the population, and to allow at least minimum concessions in the fields of workers' democracy, cultural freedom and vital economic reforms.

2. Michnik said that he will continue to support the emigre publishing program, which he considers the most vital element in the Polish struggle for democracy and human rights. He stated that the present situation in Poland calls for further mobilization of resources to help maintain the flow of ideas and literature between East and West. Michnik launched the idea of setting up a "Cultural Fund" to help Polish writers unable to publish at home get their work published abroad.

3. According to a sensitive internal Polish dissident source, there are no less than four duplicating centers in major Polish cities, releasing on the average 600 copies of samizdat documents, mainly Polish Workers' Defense Committee communiqués, appeals, protests and translations of articles from the Western press relating to Poland, Czechoslovakia and The Soviet Union. Supporters for these activities are recruited from students, young professionals and industrial workers, operating without an organizational framework, and therefore difficult to be discovered by security organs. Their number is estimated to be in the "few thousands." Their principal task is to extend the coverage of dissident activities beyond Warsaw and Radom, across the entire country. Delegates and couriers cross borders and communicate with young dissidents in neighboring countries.

4. Field dissemination: None.

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